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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/974,049	10/11/2001	Kojiro Yamazaki	0051-0165P-SP	7614
2292	7590	08/10/2004	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH			EDELL, JOSEPH F	
PO BOX 747			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			3636	

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/974,049	YAMAZAKI ET AL.	
	Examiner Joseph F Edell	Art Unit 3636	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 May 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-17, 19-21, 23 and 24 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 19-21, 23 and 24 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 11 April 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 19, 21, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 294,198 to Clark.

Clark discloses a seat that includes all the limitations recited in claims 19, 21, and 23. Clark shows seat having a seat bottom A (Fig. 1) with side walls formed of flat surfaces extending upwardly on side edges of a bottom wall of the seat bottom, a seat back (Fig. 1) connected to the seat bottom and capable of turning relative to the seat bottom, a first projection b (Fig. 2) on at least one of the side walls that faces inwardly toward the seat back, and a second projection C (Fig. 4) formed on a central portion of a lower part of a side wall of the seat back that faces outwardly toward the seat bottom wherein the second projection engages the first projection on one side of the first projection and then climbs over the first projection to a position on an opposite side of the first projection (see Fig. 2) to limit the angle between the seat bottom and back wherein the first projection and the second projection have facing surfaces rectangular in shape.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 20 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark in view of U.S. Patent No. 253,829 to Anderson.

Clark discloses seat that is basically the same as that recited in claims 20 and 24 except that the seat bottom lacks slots and the seat back lacks connecting projections capable of being engaged with the slots, as recited in the claims. Anderson shows a seat similar to that of Clark wherein the seat has a seat bottom f,P (Fig. 3) with slots R (Fig. 3) and the seat back A (Fig. 3) is provided with connecting projections (Fig. 3) engaging in the slots so as to be turnable relative to the seat bottom. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the seat of Clark such that the seat bottom has slots and the seat back has connecting projections engaging with the slots so as to be turnable relative to the seat bottom, such as the seat disclosed in Anderson. One would have been motivated to make such a modification in view of the suggestion in Anderson that the slot and projections configuration provides hinging connection between the seat bottom and seat back during inclination adjustment.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-17 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments, filed 21 May 2004, with respect to amended claim 1 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claim 1 has been withdrawn. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 19-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to child car seats: U.S. Pat. No. 6,334,652 B1 to Chen et al.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph F. Edell whose telephone number is (703) 605-1216. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-5:00pm.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-

2168

JE

August 2, 2004



Peter M. Cuomo
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3600